

1        **In the Claims**

2        Claims 4, 14, and 38 were previously canceled.

3        Claims 1, 11, 20, 25, 34, 41, 44, 52 and 55 are currently amended.

4        Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-37, and 39-57 are pending and are listed as  
5 follows:

6  
7        1.        (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for  
8 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

9                simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations  
10 that are concurrently broadcast, wherein said monitoring comprises  
11 monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a  
12 viewer; and

13                automatically switching back and forth between displays of the two  
14 or more electronic presentations based upon viewer-defined preferences,  
15 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of events that  
16 can occur within electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said  
17 events describe some activity or action that can take place within the  
18 electronic presentation itself.

19  
20        2.        (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,  
21 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific  
22 electronic presentation titles.

1           3.     (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,  
2 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that  
3 can occur within electronic presentations.

4  
5           4.     (Canceled)

6  
7           5.     (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,  
8 wherein the viewer defined preferences are defined in terms of at least one  
9 of:

10           specific electronic presentation titles;  
11           topics that can occur within electronic presentations; and  
12           events that can occur within electronic presentations.

13  
14           6.     (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,  
15 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities  
16 that can be assigned to the two or more electronic presentations.

17  
18           7.     (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,  
19 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities  
20 that can be assigned to events that can occur within the two or more  
21 electronic presentations.

22  
23           8.     (Original) The viewing management method of claim 1,  
24 wherein said automatically switching comprises enabling a picture-in-  
25

1 picture (PIP) display for the viewer in which at least two of the electronic  
2 presentations are contemporaneously displayed for the viewer.

3  
4 9. (Original) One or more computers programmed with  
5 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause  
6 the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 1.

7  
8 10. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having  
9 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a  
10 computer, implement the method of claim 1.

11  
12 11. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for  
13 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

14 simultaneously monitoring two or more electronic presentations  
15 that are concurrently broadcast, wherein said monitoring comprises  
16 monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a  
17 viewer; and

18 automatically notifying a viewer when one or more of the electronic  
19 presentations satisfies a viewer-defined preference, wherein viewer-  
20 defined preferences can be defined in terms of events that can occur within  
21 electronic presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe  
22 some activity or action that can take place within the electronic  
23 presentation itself and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a  
24 character or person in at least one of said two or more electronic  
25 presentations.

1  
2 12. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the  
3 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific electronic  
4 presentation titles.

5  
6 13. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the  
7 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that can occur  
8 within electronic presentations.

9  
10 14. (Canceled)

11  
12 15. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the  
13 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of at least one of:  
14 specific electronic presentation titles;  
15 topics that can occur within electronic presentations; and  
16 events that can occur within electronic presentations.

17  
18 16. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the  
19 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities that can be  
20 assigned to the two or more electronic presentations.

21  
22 17. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein the  
23 viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of priorities that can be  
24 assigned to events that can occur within the two or more electronic  
25 presentations.

1  
2 18. (Original) The viewing method of claim 11, wherein said  
3 automatically notifying comprises enabling a picture-in-picture (PIP)  
4 display for the viewer in which at least two of the electronic presentations  
5 are contemporaneously displayed for the viewer.

6  
7 19. (Original) One or more computers programmed with  
8 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause  
9 the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 11.

10  
11 20. (Currently Amended) One or more programmable computers  
12 having instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers  
13 implement a viewing management method for managing viewing of  
14 multiple live electronic presentations comprising:

15 sending at least one viewer request to an encoder, the viewer  
16 request containing one or more viewer-defined preferences that relate to  
17 one or more events that can occur in one or more electronic presentations,  
18 wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that  
19 can take place within the electronic presentation itself and wherein an  
20 activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said  
21 one or more electronic presentations;

22 evaluating, with the encoder, one or more electronic presentations  
23 that are being broadcast to determine whether any of the viewer-defined  
24 preferences are satisfied, wherein said evaluating comprises at least  
25

1 monitoring data that does not comprise content that can be presented to a  
2 viewer; and

3 if a viewer-defined preference is satisfied by one or more of the  
4 electronic presentations, notifying a viewer that is associated with the  
5 viewer-defined preference that was satisfied.

6  
7 21. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of  
8 claim 20, wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the  
9 electronic presentation that satisfied the viewer-defined preference.

10  
11 22. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of  
12 claim 20, wherein said notifying comprises displaying indicia for the  
13 viewer that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that was  
14 satisfied.

15  
16 23. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of  
17 claim 20, wherein said viewing management method further comprises  
18 prior to said sending:

19 receiving viewer requests with a server, the viewer requests  
20 originating from a plurality of different viewers; and

21 maintaining at least a list of viewers and their viewer-defined  
22 preferences in the server,

23 said sending comprising sending the viewer requests from the  
24 server to the encoder.

1           24. (Original) The one or more programmable computers of  
2 claim 23, wherein said notifying comprises:

3           sending a notification from the encoder to the server;  
4           receiving the notification sent from the encoder; and  
5           sending a notification from the server to the viewer.  
6

7           25. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for  
8 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

9           receiving one or more viewer requests from one or more viewers,  
10          the viewer requests containing viewer-defined preferences that are to be  
11          used to evaluate a plurality of different live electronic presentations;

12          evaluating a plurality of live electronic presentations using the  
13          viewer-defined preferences, wherein the viewer-defined preferences are  
14          defined in terms of events that can occur within electronic presentations,  
15          wherein at least some of said events describe some activity or action that  
16          can take place within the electronic presentation itself and wherein said  
17          evaluating comprises at least monitoring data that does not comprise  
18          content that can be presented to a viewer, and wherein an activity or action  
19          can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said electronic  
20          presentations; and

21          in the event that one or more of the viewer-defined preferences is  
22          satisfied, notifying at least one viewer that is associated with the viewer-  
23          defined preference that is satisfied.  
24  
25

1           26.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,  
2 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the electronic  
3 presentation that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is  
4 satisfied.

5  
6           27.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,  
7 wherein said notifying comprises displaying indicia of the electronic  
8 presentation that is associated with the viewer-defined preference that is  
9 satisfied.

10  
11           28.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,  
12 wherein said notifying comprises enabling a picture-in-picture (PIP)  
13 display for a viewer in which at least two electronic presentations are  
14 contemporaneously displayed for the viewer, one of the electronic  
15 presentations comprising one which is associated with the viewer-defined  
16 preference that is satisfied.

17  
18           29.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,  
19 wherein said receiving is performed by a server that is programmed to  
20 receive the viewer requests and notify the viewers.

21  
22           30.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,  
23 wherein said receiving is performed by a server that is programmed to  
24 receive the viewer requests, evaluate the live electronic presentations, and  
25 notify the viewers.



1  
2 31. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 25,  
3 wherein said evaluating comprises:

4 receiving information describing the electronic presentations as  
5 they are being broadcast;

6 receiving updated information describing the electronic  
7 presentations as they are being broadcast; and

8 evaluating all of the information that is received in light of the  
9 viewer-defined preferences.

10  
11 32. (Original) One or more computers programmed with  
12 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause  
13 the one or more computers to implement the method of claim 25.

14  
15 33. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having  
16 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a  
17 computer, implement the method of claim 25.

18  
19 34. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for  
20 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

21 creating a viewer request that contains one or more viewer-defined  
22 preferences for use in evaluating one or more live electronic presentations;

23 sending the viewer request to one or more computing devices; and

24 evaluating one or more electronic presentations with the one or  
25 more computing devices in light of the one or more viewer-defined

1 preferences, wherein the viewer-defined preferences can be defined in  
2 terms of events that can occur in electronic presentations, wherein at least  
3 some of said events describe some activity or action that can take place  
4 within the electronic presentation itself and wherein said evaluating  
5 comprises at least monitoring data that does not comprise content that can  
6 be presented to a viewer and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a  
7 character or person in at least one of said electronic presentations.

8  
9 35. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34  
10 further comprising using the one or more computing devices to send a  
11 notification to a viewer in the event that one or more of the electronic  
12 presentations satisfies one or more of the viewer-defined preferences.

13  
14 36. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34  
15 further comprising automatically displaying an electronic presentation for  
16 a viewer in the event that the electronic presentation satisfies one or more  
17 of the viewer-defined preferences.

18  
19 37. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34,  
20 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of specific  
21 electronic presentation titles.

22  
23 38. (Canceled)  
24  
25

1           39.   (Original) The viewing management method of claim 34,  
2 wherein the viewer-defined preferences are defined in terms of topics that  
3 can occur in electronic presentations.  
4

5           40.   (Original) One or more computer-readable media having  
6 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a  
7 computer, implement the method of claim 34.  
8

9           41.   (Currently Amended) An interactive network comprising:  
10 one or more client viewing devices; and  
11 one or more computing devices communicatively linked with the  
12 one or more client viewing devices, the computing devices being  
13 programmed to:

14               simultaneously monitor one or more electronic presentations  
15 that are concurrently broadcast by at least monitoring data that does not  
16 comprise content that can be presented to a viewer; and

17               automatically send a notification to one or more of the client  
18 viewing devices when one or more of the electronic presentations satisfies  
19 one or more viewer-defined preference that is defined by a viewer of the  
20 one or more client viewing devices, wherein the viewer-defined  
21 preferences are defined in terms of events that can occur in electronic  
22 presentations, wherein at least some of said events describe some activity  
23 or action that can take place within the electronic presentation itself and  
24 wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or person in at least  
25 one of said electronic presentations.

1  
2 42. (Original) The interactive network of claim 41, wherein the  
3 one or more client viewing devices are programmed to automatically  
4 display at least an indicia of an electronic presentation that satisfies one or  
5 more of the viewer-defined preferences upon receiving a notification from  
6 the one or more computing devices.

7  
8 43. (Original) The interactive network of claim 42, wherein said  
9 indicia comprises a display of the live electronic presentation.

10  
11 44. (Currently Amended) A viewing management method for  
12 managing viewing of multiple live electronic presentations, comprising:

13 monitoring viewing habits of one or more viewers of live electronic  
14 presentations to determine particular events within the electronic  
15 presentations that the viewers are likely to want to view, wherein at least  
16 some of said events pertain to some activity or action that can take place  
17 within the electronic presentation itself and wherein an activity or action  
18 can pertain to a character or person in at least one of said electronic  
19 presentations;

20 ascertaining from data that does not comprise content that can be  
21 presented to a viewer, whether said one or more viewers would likely want  
22 to view a particular event; and

23 notifying one or more viewers when it appears that an event is  
24 occurring within an electronic presentation that the viewer is not viewing  
25 but would likely want to view.

1  
2 45. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,  
3 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the event for a  
4 viewer.

5  
6 46. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,  
7 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying indicia of the  
8 electronic presentation, but not the electronic presentation for a viewer.

9  
10 47. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,  
11 wherein said notifying comprises automatically displaying the event in a  
12 picture-in-picture (PIP) window on a viewer device.

13  
14 48. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 44,  
15 wherein said monitoring comprises establishing a correlation between the  
16 time that a viewer views a particular electronic presentation and the events  
17 that transpire during that time.

18  
19 49. (Original) The viewing management method of claim 48,  
20 wherein said establishing comprises evaluating viewer habits over a  
21 plurality of time frames during which the viewer is viewing one or more  
22 electronic presentations.

1           50. (Original) One or more computers programmed with  
2 instructions which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause  
3 the one or more computers to perform the method of claim 44.  
4

5           51. (Original) One or more computer-readable media having  
6 computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a  
7 computer, implement the method of claim 44.  
8

9           52. (Currently Amended) An interactive network comprising:  
10 one or more client viewing devices; and  
11 one or more computing devices communicatively linked with the  
12 one or more client viewing devices, the computing devices being  
13 programmed to:

14                 monitor viewing habits of one or more viewers of live  
15 electronic presentations to determine particular events within the  
16 electronic presentations that the viewers are likely to want to view,  
17 wherein at least some of said events pertain to some activity or  
18 action that can take place within the electronic presentation itself  
19 and wherein an activity or action can pertain to a character or  
20 person in at least one of said electronic presentations;

21                 ascertain from data that does not comprise content that can  
22 be presented to a viewer, whether said one or more viewers would  
23 likely want to view a particular event; and  
24  
25

1            notify one or more viewers when it appears that an event is  
2            occurring within an electronic presentation that the viewer is not  
3            viewing but would likely want to view.  
4

5            53.    (Original) The interactive network of claim 52, wherein at  
6            least one of the client viewing devices comprises a television.  
7

8            54.    (Original) The interactive network of claim 52, wherein at  
9            least one of the client viewing devices comprises a computer display.  
10

11           55.    (Currently Amended) A user interface for use in an  
12           interactive entertainment system comprising:

13           a processor;

14           an application executing on the processor and configured to present  
15           plurality of fields, one of which displaying a number of titles of programs  
16           that can be selected by a viewer, another of which displaying indicia that  
17           can be selected to define viewer preferences for simultaneously monitoring  
18           two or more of the programs that are selected by the viewer, wherein said  
19           monitoring comprises monitoring at least data that does not comprise  
20           content that can be presented to the viewer and which comprises events  
21           that can occur within said two or more programs, wherein at least some of  
22           said events describe some activity or action that can take place within the  
23           electronic presentation itself and wherein an activity or action can pertain  
24           to a character or person in at least one of said electronic presentations; and  
25

1 an input device operable to enable a user to select a particular  
2 electronic presentation for continuous play viewing.

3  
4 56. (Original) The user interface of claim 55, wherein said  
5 indicia is associated with predefined aspects of the programs.

6  
7 57. (Original) The user interface of claim 55, wherein said  
8 indicia is associated with viewer-definable aspects of the programs.